Liquor shops and drunken driving

1141. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Safety Forum had been making representations to remove all liquor shops from the vicinity of National Highways in various States, including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI has not acted upon such suggestions;

(c) to what extent is drunken driving causing accidents on the highways;

(d) whether NHAI would further study proposals of the Road Safety Forum to

enhance road safety for the public; and

(e) the reasons for NHAI going slow on such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes Sir. This Department had received a representation from Dr. P. Pullarao, President, Road Safety Forum, Andhra Pradesh in the year 2003, in which he had suggested that the Government of India and the NHAI can insist that it would not construct roads if the respective Excise Policy is not changed and make it a condition that highways would be constructed only if liquor shops are removed along the highways.

(b) Removal of liquor shops does not fall under the purview of National Highways Authority of India. The Excise Policy is a State subject. However, the matter of removal of liquor shops along Highways was discussed in the 7th meeting of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), held on 15.1.2004 in New Delhi, and it was unanimously agreed that licenses for liquor vends should not be given along National Highways. The Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Transport) of all States/UTs were requested on 26th October, 2007 to ensure that no license is issued to the liquor vendor along National Highways. State Governments were also requested to review such cases where license had already been given for liquor vendors along National Highways for taking corrective action.

(c) As per the latest available data on Road Accidents, Person Killed and Injured on all roads, due to drunken driving in all the States/UTs, for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 were as under:—

Year	Total number of Road Accidents caused due to drunken driving	Total number of Persons Killed due to drunken driving	Total number of Persons Injured caused due to drunken driving
2004	22386	6438	24593
2005	26375	8090	29440
2006	28373	8313	29904

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The proposals of the Road Safety Forum, falling under the jurisdiction of NHAI, have already been studied. Any further suggestions will be duly considered.

Benefits of "Bhuvan"

1142. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently innovated "Bhuvan" by ISRO would be reoriented to simple operations so that common men engaged in deep-sea fishing or deployed to conserve our fast dwindling wild life, are able to derive maximum advantage to improve their efficiency; and

(b) whether an awareness campaign would be launched, through NGOs or similar grass-roots institutions, so that large segment of our poor population are able to benefit from such innovations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 'Bhuvan' is an initiative of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for visualisation of the earth's terrain through the images taken by the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites, which also provides linkages to thematic information on land use/land cover; soil; groundwater prospects; potential fishing zones etc., which are useful to the common man.

(b) Awareness Programmes on various initiatives of ISRO are conducted periodically through NGOs as well as Central and State agencies.

Use of internet in space

1143. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether internet is being used anywhere in the space;

(b) if so, the location thereof;

(c) whether India is also making efforts in this regards;

(d) the Ministries, which are using the data banks of the information received from space shuttles;

(e) whether there is any research centre in the Space Department; and

(f) if so, the number of scientists working therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) India is not using internet in any of its space assets. However,